

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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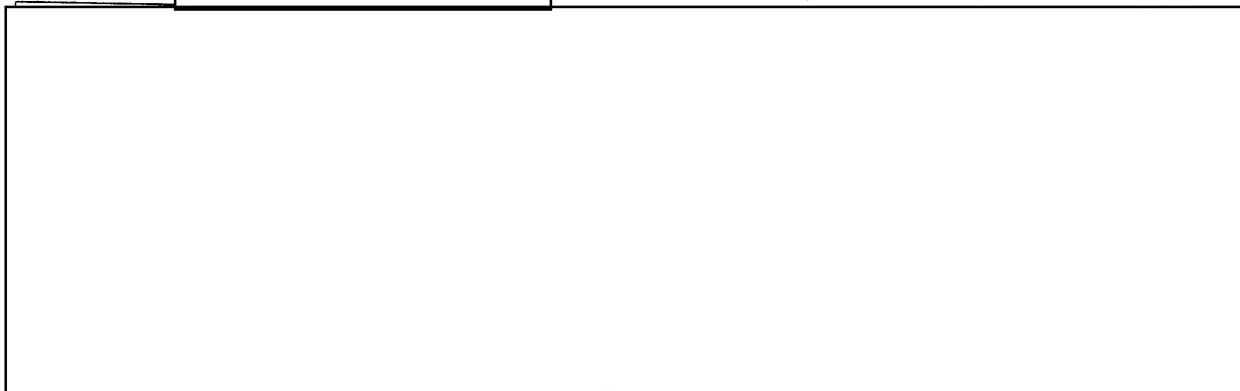
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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25X1X 1. [REDACTED] in October 1948 a new Post Office building, 11 stories high, was being constructed on Fircnar Square, and I presume that it is completed by now. The old Post Office in which the Telephone, Telegraph and Radio departments were housed was on Stalin Square, formerly Masaryk Square. The old building covered three city blocks, but was insufficient to handle the communication needs. With the construction of the new Post Office Building, the work will be divided between the two buildings.

25X1X 2. [REDACTED] new copper telephone cables were being installed underground, and very few lines were above ground. A new Rotary automatic telephone system, with a capacity for ten thousand phones, was also being installed, with equipment supplied by the Telegrafia firm in Pardubice. Since 1945 Telegrafia has been manufacturing both Rotary and Siemens equipment.

3. The telephone exchange in the Post Office Building handled the entire city of Bratislava. There were two departments, one for local and one for out-of-town calls, but by 1948 all local calls were automatically completed. Bratislava was the communications center for Slovakia.

4. Although the heavy equipment came from Pardubice, the telephone receivers were manufactured in Kulin. The cable came from Cable of Bratislava which produced various electrical equipment in addition to cable.

25X1 5. Cable of Bratislava was composed of buildings covering two large blocks. It employed three to four thousand workers. Most of the engineers left the company after the communist seizure of the country. [REDACTED]

In 1940 copper and wool for insulation was being imported from the USSR. The other materials used by the firm were produced in Czechoslovakia.

6. After Soviet military occupation in 1945, no equipment was taken from the Telephone Department. However, copper cable and storage warehouses were requisitioned and

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the contents sent to the USSR. The Soviet soldiers used their own equipment, which seemed to me very primitive.

7. Not many changes took place in the Telephone Department after Communist seizure of power. The supervisors were changed and new men were installed on the top level, but otherwise the work went on as before. The actual supervisor of the Post Office was a USSR major who, although possessing no official title, dictated to the various directors and office heads. The Soviet officers holding this position were changed frequently.
8. After the Communist seizure in 1948 Vaclav Miskovsky became president of the Telephone and Telegraph Company. He had previously been an electrical technician, but had not held any responsible position. Prior to 1948 he was a member of the Popular Socialist Party, but was generally known to be a Communist. He was very active in the workers' organization Robotnicka Othorove Hnutie, formed in 1946, and became chairman of the group. He was not popular with the workers of the Telephone Department either before or after his elevation to the headship of the Department. He is married, has two daughters and does not drink. He is approximately 50 years of age.
9. The two assistants to Miskovsky in 1948 were Engr. (fau) Matus and Engr. Jan Titl, both acting as technical advisors since Miskovsky himself was not very capable. Matus is still young, aged approximately 34 years, and was born in Slovakia. He completed the Technical School of the University of Prague, and worked at one time in the laboratory of the Skoda works in Pilsen as a builder of electric motors. He was formerly in charge of the out-of-town section of the Telephone Department. He is not a communist. Titl also studied at the Technical School of the University of Prague, but was unable to secure employment as an electrical technician. Until 1938 he was a teacher in a small town near Cadca. He finally succeeded in securing a position with the Post Office, and eventually was in charge of the local Bratislava lines.
10. [redacted] an electrical engineer employed in the Planning Bureau of the Telephone Department. He knew the entire telephone network of Bratislava and was a very capable man. He is about 42 years of age, and is probably still in Bratislava. He was bitterly anti-communist.

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